Statement

Statement showing the number of beneficiaries under intensive cotton development programme and oil seeds production programme in the state of Gujarat

Sr. No	District	Sprinkler Sets			Pheromone traps		
		1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
1.	Ahmedabad	2	4	147	40	240	113
2.	Banaskantha	33	30	58	350	1571	102
3.	Vadodara	35	70	189	80	373	72
4.	Bharuch	50	1	53	60	67	74
5.	Gandhinagar	—	—	26	150	104	105
6.	Kheda	15	8	108	425	1800	328
7.	Mehsana	—	7	58	60	851	276
8.	Panchmahal	—	6	50	10	400	50
9.	Sabarkantha	—	8	94	190	247	200
10.	Surat	27	13	2	137	—	—
11.	Amreli	258	371	796	—	372	411
12.	Bhavnagar	364	401	67	—	—	724
13.	Jamnagar	92	77	449	—	—	756
14.	Jungadh	300	909	1195	—	1ll	824
15.	Kutch	8	21	109	—	150	90
16.	Rajkot	314	465	1186	60	428	555
17.	Surendranagar	20	28	113	60	56	245
18.	Bulsar	36	23	79	—	—	—

(d) and (e)Yes, Sir. The production of cotton and oilseeds has been showing an increasing trend over the years. The production has increased from 11.81 lakh bales to 22.02 lakh bales and 16.44 lakh tonnes to 21.63 lakh tonnes for cotton and oilseeds respectively in the year 1995-96 from the year 1991-92.

(f) Besides supply of sprinklers & pheromone traps, other measures taken under these schemes for improving production include field demonstrations, integrated pest management demonstrations, training of farmers, production & supply of seeds, use of sprayers/farm implements etc.

Gauge conversion of Gadag-Hotgi Rail-line and construction of Railway Station at Solapur

2332. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to connect Gadag with Hotgi, while converting it with Broad gauge line and link it with the main Broad gauge line Bombay-Solapur-Madras, Hotgi itself, instead of taking this converted Broad gauge line upto Solapur;

(b) if so, how far it will eliminate the need for conversion of the line and the expenditure to be incurred;

(c) whether this will also eliminate the need for maintaining a separate Railway Station for Southern Railway at Solapur, and also remove traffic congestions and hazards at Railway crossing in the heart of the city; and

(d) the final decision taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

The gauge conversion of the entire section from Solapur-Hotgi-Gadag has been approved and is currently being progressed.

(c) and (d) Due to the conversion of Solapur-Hotgi-Gadag section, the need for maintaining a separate MG railway station at Solapur will be eliminated.

Decline of Royal Bengal Tigers

2333. DR. B.B. DUTTA:
SHRI ANANTA SETHI:
SHRI VAYALAR RAVI:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the British Parliament have urged the Indian Prime Minister to take immediate steps for the protection of Royal Bengal Tigers;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government;

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government for the proper preservation and development of the Tigers; and

(d) the amount of foreign assistance received for the Project Tiger during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) and (b) Though the reports to this effect have appeared in the Press, any official communication is yet to be received by the Government. It would, therefore be, premature to offer any comments in this matter.

(c) The steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government are given in the Statement enclosed. (See below).

(d) Two externally aided projects—Forestry Research Education & Extension Project (FREEP) and India Eco-development Project, were initiated in 1994-95 and 1995-96 respectively. During 1994-95 and 1995-96, an amount of Rs. 9.59 lakhs and Rs. 0.76 lakhs was released under FREEP. Rs. 194.13 lakhs in 1995-96 was released to different States under India Eco-development Project.

Statement

Decline in Royal Bengal Tigers

(i) Hunting of wild animals included in Scheduled I to IV of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, has been banned by law.

(ii) Special measures for protection and conservation of tiger, elephants and rhinos and their habitat are being implemented.

(iii) A network of 441 Wildlife Sanctuaries and 80 National Parks covering 1,48,000 sq. km. has been set up for conservation of wild flora and fauna. The Govt of India have also launched the "Project Tiger" and "Project Elephant" in the years 1973 and 1991 respectively to give impetus to the conservation of these wild animals. Financial assistance is provided by the Central Government under various centrally sponsored plan schemes, including the Project Tiger and Project Elephant Schemes, for development of National Parks and Sanctuaries on request from the State Governments.

(iv) Raids are carried out by the wildlife authorities, whenever information of illegal trading in wildlife animals reaches them.

(v) International Trade in Endangered Species of animals and articles made thereof is regulated under the provisions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora & (CITES). The trade in ivory is totally banned.

(vi) Regional and Sub-regional offices of Wildlife Preservation have been set up mostly at the main export centres of the country to prevent smuggling of wildlife products.

(vii) Interdepartmental coordination has been enhanced with other enforcement organisations like Police, BSF, Customs, ITBP, Coast Guards etc. Training programmes on wildlife enforcement and implementation were also conducted for all these organisations at New Delhi and Dehradun during, 1995.